



Heracleum mantegazzianum

Giant Hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, is originally from Asia and was introduced to the U.S. as a garden ornamental. A member of the parsley family, it is impressively large. It reaches a height of 10 to 15 feet when in flower and has hollow stems, 2 to 4 inches in diameter with dark reddish-purple spots and bristles. Its leaves grow up to 5 feet wide. Giant hogweed flowers mid-May through July, with numerous white flowers clustered in an umbrella-shaped head. The flower head grows up to 2.5 feet in diameter across its flat top. Giant hogweed prefers moist soil and can quickly dominate ravines and stream banks.

Contact with giant hogweed's watery sap followed by sun exposure produces painful, burning blisters that may develop into purplish or blackened scars. Giant hogweed is considered a public health hazard.

DDA Plant Industries inspectors look for giant hogweed when near its preferred habitat. Plant Industries works with forestry, cooperative extension, and other appropriate Delaware agencies to ensure that they keep a lookout for this plant.

These species are not known to be present in Delaware; we want to keep it that way.

If you think you've seen one of these, please contact the Plant Industries Section of the Delaware Department of Agriculture at (302) 698-4500.



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Dangerous Aliens

Have You Seen Them?



Plant Industries

**Delaware Department
of Agriculture**

Tomicus piniperda

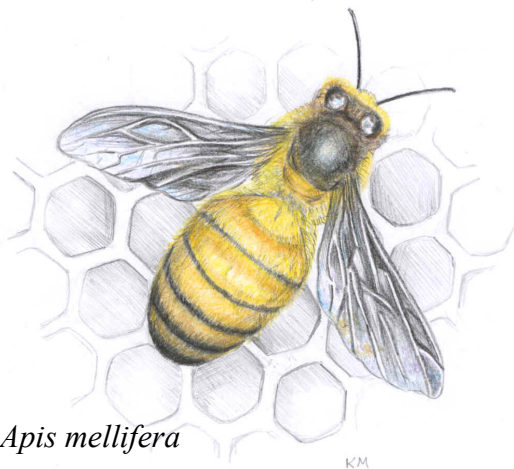


Pine

Shoot Beetle, *Tomicus piniperda*, is commonly found in Europe and Asia. It was discovered in the U.S. near Cleveland, Ohio in July 1992. Though not in Delaware, it has spread to eight states. Adults are cylindrical and measure less than 1/4 inch in length. Their head and thorax are shiny black while the wing covers are reddish-brown to black.

Adult pine shoot beetles feed inside the shoots of pine trees. They tunnel into the center and bore outwards, hollowing out 1 to 4 inches of the shoot. Infested shoots generally bend near the point where the beetles entered, turn yellow to red, and eventually break off. Pine shoot beetles can cause heavy economic damage to timber tracts and Christmas tree nurseries. Scotch pine is preferred, but all pine species are vulnerable.

DDA Plant Industries inspectors look for pine shoot beetle damage while inspecting Christmas tree farms each summer and Christmas tree retail stands during early winter. The Department and the USDA also places sentinel traps in Delaware forests that contain the pine shoot beetle's preferred tree species.



Apis mellifera

Red Imported Fire Ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, arrived in the United States in the late 1930's. It came to the U.S. from South America through the port of Mobile, Alabama. The ants have quickly spread throughout the southeastern states and Puerto Rico, dispersing naturally through mating flights and colony movement. The introduction of fire ants can eliminate entire native ant species from that area. Red imported fire ants also have a major impact on field crops and landscape plants. The ants are attracted to electrical currents and damage heating and air conditioning units, traffic lights, and gas pumps in urban areas. The fire ant's sting is also very painful and may harm small children and the elderly.

In Delaware, the most likely pathway for fire ants to be introduced is in nursery stock from the southeastern United States. DDA Plant Industries surveys the state, looking for fire ant mounds in recent residential and commercial developments.

Solenopsis invicta



Africanized Honeybee, *Apis mellifera scutellata*, also known as the "Killer bee", is a descendant of bees imported into South America in 1956. Since then, it has been rapidly multiplying and extending its range northward. These bees can attack people and animals that unknowingly stray into their territory. The venom of the Africanized honeybee is no more potent than that of the common European honeybee. However, Africanized honeybees respond in greater numbers and pursue their "intruders" for greater distances than their European relatives. To date, the Africanized honeybee has not been identified in Delaware. If you notice a suspicious swarm, call the State Apiarist at (302) 698-4500.

Anoplophora glabripennis



Asian Longhorned Beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, has been discovered attacking trees in the United States. Native to China, the beetle probably traveled to the United States inside wooden crates and pallets. Once here, the beetle's larvae kills trees by tunneling under the bark. The Asian longhorned beetle prefers maple species, but also attacks alder, birch, elm, horse chestnut, poplar, and willow. Currently, the only effective control measure is to chip or burn infested trees. Early detection of infestations along with rapid treatment response are crucial to successful eradication of this beetle.

DDA Plant Industries visits warehouses that receive products from Asia shipped in crates or pallets made from wood. Inspectors examine shipping materials for evidence of tunneling by the beetle's larvae and examine nearby trees for beetle damage.